

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10155P2 WO/JP	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB98/00950	International filing date (day/month/year) 30/03/1998	Priority date (day/month/year) 09/04/1997	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61K7/155			
Applicant RECKITT & COLMAN FRANCE et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04/11/1998	Date of completion of this report 16.02.99
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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB98/00950

1. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-16 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-13 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB98/00950

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-13
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB98/00950

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. The subject-matter of claims 1-12 (composition) and 13 (process) is novel (Art. 33(2) PCT) since it has not been disclosed in any of the available prior art documents.
2. WO-A-91 02538 (D1), which represent the closest prior art, discloses compositions comprising gels formed from two polymeric components and a reducing agent such as a thioglycolate. The compositions have a pH of from about 3 to about 10.

The subject-matter of the present claim 1 differs in that it comprises a buffer system capable of maintaining the pH of the composition at a value of from 10.5 to 13.0. Furthermore, D1 is silent about hair removal.

The problem of the present application was to provide depilatory gel compositions which would be stable in highly alkaline conditions. This problem is solved by the composition according to present claim 1 having a first polymeric binder comprising a charged, cross-linked, water-soluble polymer; a second polymeric binder comprising a linear, water-soluble polymer and a certain buffer system.

There was no hint in D1 to the above-mentioned problem and its solution. Therefore, the subject-matter of claims 1-13 is considered to involve an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT).